

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicular lamp used in a vehicle, comprising:
 - a light source including a light-emitting diode operable to emit light in accordance with power received from a power supply provided in an outside of said vehicular lamp;
 - a lamp body operable to accommodate said light source therein to protect said light source from water; and
 - a breaking detection unit operable to detect breaking of said light source and notify an outside of said lamp body of the detection result.
2. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of light sources connected in parallel are provided, and
 - said breaking detection unit detects said breaking in a case where at least one of said plurality of light sources was broken.
3. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein said breaking detection unit notifies the outside of said lamp body of information indicating said breaking via a breaking information notifying line that is electrically independent of a power transmission line for transmitting said power to said light sources.
4. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an impedance changing unit operable to change impedance between two power transmission lines for transmitting said power to said light source in a case where said breaking detection unit detected said breaking, wherein
 - said breaking detection unit notifies the outside of said

lamp body of information indicating said breaking by making said impedance changing unit change said impedance.

5. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 4, wherein said impedance changing unit includes:

a switch connected in parallel to said light source; and
a resistor, connected in parallel to said light source and in series with said switch, operable to allow a transmission-line current that is a current from one of said two power transmission lines to the other power transmission line in a case where said switch is turned on, and

said breaking detection unit turns said switch on to allow said transmission-line current to flow in said resistor in a case where said breaking detection unit detected said breaking, thereby making said impedance changing unit change said impedance to a smaller value.

6. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 5, wherein said light source receives said power that intermits at a predetermined period,

said breaking detection unit detects said breaking during a time period in which said light source receives said power, and

said impedance changing unit further includes a limiting capacitor operable to limit a time in which said impedance is smaller than a predetermined value by changing said transmission-line current during said time period in a case where said breaking detection unit detected said breaking.

7. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said light source receives said power that intermits at a predetermined

period,

said breaking detection unit detects said breaking during a time period in which said light source receives said power,

said vehicular lamp further includes a holding capacitor operable to hold a value indicating whether or not said breaking detection unit detected said breaking, during a time period in which said light source receives no power, and

said breaking detection unit notifies the outside of said lamp body of information indicating said breaking based on said value held by said holding capacitor during said time period in which said light source receives no power.

8. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 7, further comprising an impedance changing unit operable to change impedance between two power transmission lines for transmitting said power to said light source, based on said value held by said holding capacitor during said time period in which said light source receives no power, wherein

said breaking detection unit notifies the outside of said lamp body of said information indicating said breaking by making said impedance changing unit change said impedance.

9. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a held value outputting unit operable to output said value held by said holding capacitor to the outside of said lamp body during said time period in which said light source receives no power, wherein

said breaking detection unit notifies the outside of said lamp body of said information indicating said breaking by making said held value outputting unit output said value.